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## BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION CC

## **COMMISSIONERS**

DOUG LITTLE, Chairman BOB STUMP BOB BURNS TOM FORESE ANDY TOBIN

## Arizona Corporation Commission DOCKETED

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AZ CSRP COMMISSION DOCKET CONTROL

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ARIZONA WATER COMPANY TO EXTEND ITS CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IN CASA GRANDE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA. DOCKET NO. W-01445A-03-0559

CORNMAN TWEEDY 560, LLC'S POST-HEARING RESPONSE BRIEF

Cornman Tweedy 560, LLC, ("Cornman Tweedy"), through counsel undersigned, hereby submits its Post-Hearing Response Brief. For the reasons set forth herein, Cornman Tweedy submits that the public interest is better served by exclusion of its property (the "Cornman Tweedy Property") from the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CC&N") of Arizona Water Company ("AWC") at this time.

## I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

The purpose of this remand proceeding is to consider the overall public interest underlying service to the Cornman Tweedy Property, and specifically, whether it is in the public interest to exclude the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N at this time. Central to the determination of these issues is whether AWC, in this water challenged area and under the circumstances presented in this case, is providing reasonable service if it is not able or not willing to provide integrated water and wastewater services.

While the scope of this proceeding is clear, AWC attempts to block the review ordered by the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") by imposing the narrow standard for deleting an unconditional CC&N articulated in the case of *James P. Paul Water Company v. Arizona Corporation Commission*, 137 Ariz. 426, 671 P.2d 404 (1983) ("*James P. Paul*"). However, this case is not a CC&N deletion proceeding in the likeness of *James P. Paul*. AWC does not possess an unconditional and vested CC&N for the Cornman Tweed Property because Decision 69722 imposed express restrictions,

CROCKETT LAW GROUP PLLC 2198 E. Camelback Road, Suite 305 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-4747 602.441.2775

conditions and encumbrances on the grant of authority in the form of Findings of Fact 100, 101, 102, 103 and 104, and Conclusions of Law 4 and 5.

The review in this case was ordered pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252 which allows the Commission to rescind, alter or amend any order or decision upon a showing that the public interest would be served by its action. There is no mention in Decision 69722 of *James P. Paul* or the application of a *James P. Paul* standard of review, and that should come as no surprise. It would have been nonsensical and pointless for the Commission to order a remand under a standard that would have precluded the very review that was ordered. The Commission does not operate that way.

There is no need for water service to the Cornman Tweedy Property today or in the foreseeable future. Cornman Tweedy does not want its property included in AWC's CC&N for many reasons that are amply documented in the testimony and evidence in this case. Chief among these reasons is that Cornman Tweedy would like the option of an integrated water and wastewater provider to serve its property. The evidence is clear that integrated water and wastewater utilities provide benefits that are superior to stand-alone utility providers. For these reasons, Cornman Tweedy submits that it is in the public interest for the Commission to act pursuant to is authority under A.R.S. § 40-252 to exclude the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N at this time.

Cornman Tweedy has not attempted to address each and every argument in the post hearing briefs of AWC and Utilities Division Staff ("Staff"). Cornman Tweedy's decision not to address any particular argument does not signify acceptance or agreement with that argument.

## II. <u>LEGAL ARGUMENT</u>

## A. James P. Paul is Not the Applicable Standard of Review in this Case.

In its Post-Hearing Brief, AWC argues that "[a]s a matter of law, *James P. Paul* controls here." However, Decision 69722 makes no mention of *James P. Paul* and, in fact, the application of a *James P. Paul* standard of review would preclude the very

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 15-16.

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review—broad in scope—that the Commission expressly ordered. Moreover, the facts of this case are easily distinguishable from James P. Paul and it would be inappropriate to apply the James P. Paul standard of review because it would block the unambiguous directive of the Commission. The review ordered by the Commission in this case is to be conducted pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252, as specified in Decision 69722, which authorizes the Commission "at any time, upon notice to the corporation affected, and after opportunity to be heard as upon a complaint, rescind, alter or amend any order of decision made by it." The Arizona Supreme Court explains in Arizona Corporation Commission v. Arizona Water Company, 111 Ariz. 74, 523 P.2d 505 (1974) ("Arizona Water Company") that in matters which are subject to an A.R.S. § 40-252 review, the Commission must "act upon a showing that the public interest would be served by its action."<sup>2</sup> Thus, the Commission may act pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252 to exclude the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N if it determines, based upon the evidence, that the public interest would be served by its action.

## 1. Decision 69722 Makes No Mention of the James P. Paul Standard of Review nor is the Application of such a Standard Consistent with the Commission's Directives in Decision 69722.

In Decision 69722, the Commission directed a "[r]eopening of the record in this matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252..." The issues to be addressed in the remanded proceeding were clearly spelled out in the order:

- In Finding of Fact 100, the Commission properly observed that "[t]here may not be a current need or necessity for water service in the portions of the extension area that are owned by Cornman, and Cornman does not wish to have its property included in Arizona Water's CC&N at this time." The Commission then concluded that "[t]hese issues bear further examination and may have some relevance to the best interests of the area ultimately to be served."
- In Finding of Fact 101, the Commission ruled that "[i]t is in the public interest to remand this case to the Hearing Division for further proceedings regarding whether Arizona Water should continue to hold a CC&N for the Cornman extension area at this time."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Arizona Water Company, 523 P.2d at 507.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Decision 69722, Conclusion of Law 4.

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In Finding of Fact 104, the Commission directed that "[t]he proceeding on remand should be broad in scope so that the Commission may develop a record to consider the overall public interest underlying service to the Cornman property that is included in the extension area granted by Decision No. 66893. By identifying these issues and requiring further proceedings, we are not prejudging this matter in any way; instead, we merely desire an opportunity to consider the broader public interests implicated herein." (emphasis added)

It is highly significant that these provisions were added to the order through adoption of Gleason Proposed Amendment #3 dated July 19, 2007, which was offered by former Commissioner Gleason and passed by the commissioners. Unlike the remainder of Decision 69722, which was prepared by the administrative law judge, these provisions were specifically added by the commissioners and directly reflect their intent regarding the purpose and scope of this remand proceeding.

The Commissioners subsequently provided additional direction regarding the scope of this case as captured by Judge Nodes in his February 10, 2011, Procedural Order:

[T]he Commission voted to send the matter back to the Hearing Division for further proceedings to determine "whether a public service corporation, like Arizona Water, in this water challenged area and under the circumstances presented in this case, is providing reasonable service if it is not able or not willing to provide integrated water and wastewater services."

Addressing Gleason Proposed Amendment #3, legal counsel for AWC made the following acknowledgement to the Commissioners at the July 24, 2007, Open Meeting where Decision 69722 was approved:

I completely agree with Mr. Kempley. Obviously, the applicant's desire here would have the ROO as submitted. You heard substantial discussion and give and take on that for hours at the last open meeting.

This is obviously, a carefully drafted and adroitly performed amendment that ties together all of the concerns that were raised. And if we untie one of the pieces of packing string, it all falls apart.

And Arizona Water Company, as much as it would like to have the ROO entered as is, would accept this, and looks forward to working through the process as the Commission would dictate under Amendment 3.4

Having told the Commissioners that AWC "looks forward to working through the process as the Commission would dictate under Amendment 3," AWC now argues that the Commission cannot actually have the review it ordered in Decision 69722. Notwithstanding that the Commission ordered a review under A.R.S. § 40-252, AWC argues that the standard of review that applies to this case is the *James P. Paul* standard of review. In that case, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled as follows:

Once granted, the [CC&N] confers upon its holder an exclusive right to provide the relevant service for so long as the grantee can provide adequate service at a reasonable rate. If a [CC&N] within our system of regulated monopoly means anything, it means that its holder has the right to an opportunity to adequately provide the service it was certificated to provide. Only upon a showing that a certificate holder, presented with a demand for service which is reasonable in the light of projected need, has failed to supply such service at a reasonable cost to customers, can the Commission alter its certificate. Only then would it be in the public interest to do so.<sup>5</sup>

The review that the Commissioners ordered in Decision 69722, as defined in the adopted Gleason Proposed Amendment #3, was "broad in scope" and included the development of "a record to consider the overall public interest underlying service to the Cornman property." Specifically, the Commissioners wanted the proceeding to address the need for water service within the Cornman Tweedy Property and the relevance of the fact that Cornman Tweedy does not want AWC to serve its property. Additionally, the Commissioners wanted the proceeding to address "whether a public service corporation, like Arizona Water, in this water challenged area and under the circumstances presented in this case, is providing reasonable service if it is not able or not willing to provide integrated water and wastewater services." These issues are beyond the very narrow

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Cornman Tweedy arranged for the preparation of a transcript of the July 24, 2007, Open Meeting relating to this docket. A copy of the transcript was attached as Attachment "D" to the Reply of Cornman Tweedy 560, LLC to the Response Briefs of Arizona Water Company and Utilities Division Staff filed in this docket on July 17, 2009. The quoted statements are found at page 9, line 17, through page 10, line 9, of the transcript.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> James P. Paul, 137 Ariz. At 429, 671 P.2d at 407.

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review that AWC advocates under James P. Paul which would consider only whether AWC has been presented with a demand for water service and whether AWC has failed to supply service at a reasonable cost.

AWC is playing a game of "gotcha" wherein it agreed at the July 24, 2007 Open Meeting to "work through the process as the Commission would dictate under [Gleason] Amendment 3" but now seeks to force a James P. Paul standard of review in order to block the Commission's consideration of the issues which it specifically sought to address in this remand proceeding. Former Commissioner Gleason, identified this disingenuous tactic during an oral argument in this case on February 22, 2008, as captured by the following exchange between counsel for AWC and Commissioner Gleason:

COM GLEASON:	Now, when the Commission and when I looked at this, in each
	of the respective parcels, since you didn't have an assured
	water supply certificate for each of them, we should have
	canceled the we should have cancelled the 66893. In other
	words you didn't meet you didn't meet the order

MR. HIRSCH: Chairman Gleason, I remember well your position when that was squared up before the Commission and was discussed.

COM. GLEASON: Okay.

MR. HIRSCH: And we disagree with that, but I remember your argument.

COM GLEASON: Well, my point is that at that point in time we looked at a In other words, all these other public policy decision. developments were going forward, and if we would have denied this decision, all those other developments would have had a problem.

That's very true. I remember the Commission discussing that. MR. HIRSCH:

COM GLEASON: So that as a Commission, we made a public policy decision at that time which favored your company. In other words, you were allowed to go forward with those. Now, in this particular case, we have asked for a wide-ranging discussion involving public policy more than - - more than just the Paul case.

So I -- I would think that it -- it is against -- and the

Commission has broad powers in public policy so that it would seem to me that in the remand case we need to have a real open discussion because we - - we have had a public policy decision at one time. Now we need to consider public policy in the remand decision.

MR. HIRSCH: Chairman Gleason, I would agree with you if the certificate had not become final for the subject I think its 1,120 acres. I want to say 2 of the 11 sections roughly that Cornman Tweedy controls. But the decision at issue, 69722, granted all 11 sections including the areas that were - - where third parties

would have suffered, as you indicated.

So our respectful legal position is that - - with due respect to the Commission's plenary authority, is without legal authority to decide anything other than whether the correct deletion issues can be proved by Cornman Tweedy in this remand proceeding, in other words, whether Arizona Water Company is - -

COM GLEASON: Yes, but that involves a public policy decision; right?

MR. HIRSCH: It does in terms of if there is a legitimate question raised as to fitness and willingness to serve at reasonable rates [i.e., the

James P. Paul standard].

COM GLEASON: No. It's more than that. It's public policy of who is best - as a public policy, who should serve that area.<sup>6</sup>

Thus, in addition to the clear and unambiguous language of Decision 69722, Commissioner Gleason was very clear in this exchange that the review he and the other commissioners ordered was broader than the very narrow *James P. Paul* review that AWC asserts is the standard to be applied in this case. Commissioner Gleason was also very clear that AWC benefited greatly when the Commission approved Decision 69722 so that AWC could proceed with water service for the parcels in the extension area other than the Cornman Tweedy Property. For example, Gleason Proposed Amendment #2 dated June 27, 2007, which was not adopted, would have denied AWC's request to extend the compliance deadline in Decision 66893 which would have voided the CC&N for the entire extension area. Having benefited from the Commission's good faith in allowing AWC to 6 Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings (Filed March 14, 2008) in Docket W-01445A-03-0559 at 22-24.

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move forward with service to the majority of the extension area while reserving the right to consider more fully whether the public interest is served by excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N, AWC should not be permitted to play its game of "gotcha."

Former Commission Mayes, another signer of Decision 69722, provides additional insight regarding the commissioners' intent. In Mayes Proposed Amendment No. 1, which was offered but not adopted at the December 14, 2010, Open Meeting, Commissioner Mayes explained:

In issuing a 40-252 proceeding and sending the matter back for additional fact-gathering, the Commission was clearly concerned about the manner in which this area would be served in the future, and with the fact that Arizona Water Company appeared to no longer have a customer that desired service within the Cornman Tweedy Property.

While we believe that the Paul case defines the conditions under which a CC&N can be withdrawn from a Company after it has been granted, and that a Company's CC&N, or a portion the CC&N, can only be deleted where the Company is unable to provide needed service at reasonable rates, we do not agree that Paul prevents the Commission from deleting the Cornman Property from Arizona Water Company's CC&N in this case, where there does not appear to be an imminent need for water service at this time.

The Commission has come to a settled view that integrated water and wastewater systems are needed to help advance water sustainability in a state that faces potentially dire water shortages in the future. We are concerned about the deficiencies that exist when an area is not served by an integrated water and wastewater system. It is clear from the record in this case, and from the Commission's experience, that stand-alone water companies are largely unable to provide effluent for re-use on turfed areas such as parks, golf courses and ornamental water features, and lack the ability to engage in effective groundwater management on the scale that is possessed by integrated water and wastewater systems. Such practices as re-charge of effluent and use of effluent for irrigation purposes are central to the very notion of water sustainability.7

Unlike the Paul Water Company, which is discussed below, AWC has never held a CC&N for the Cornman Tweedy Property which is free of restrictions, conditions and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Mayes Proposed Amendment No. 1, filed December 13, 2010, in Docket W-01445A-03-0559 at 1.

encumbrances. If it did, we would not still be in this proceeding. The effect of the Commission's directives as outlined in Decision 69722 is that AWC's authority with respect to the Cornman Tweedy Property is dependent upon the resolution of the central inquiry of this case, which is, whether AWC should continue to hold the CC&N for that property. That is a critical distinction between this case and *James P. Paul*.

Given the broad scope of this A.R.S. § 40-252 proceeding as defined by the Commission, it is no surprise that there is no mention of a *James P. Paul* standard of review in Decision 69722. Certainly, there is nothing in Decision 69722 to support AWC's assertion that a *James P. Paul* standard of review be applied in this case. To the contrary, it is clear from the directives contained in Decision 69722 that the Commission intended a review under A.R.S. § 40-252 that would permit the Commission to consider "the overall public interest underlying service to the Cornman property."

There is one additional point that is relevant in this discussion. In its Post-Hearing Brief, AWC asserts that the remand issue from the February 10, 2011, Procedural order "makes this an all encompassing, precedent-setting decision that will adversely impact 270+ water-only certificated public service corporations." Although Cornman Tweedy strongly disagrees that a decision in this case will be precedent-setting or will adversely impact any water companies in Arizona, this statement by AWC acknowledges that the scope of review in this case is clearly much broader than the narrow *James P. Paul* standard it advocates.

## 2. This Case is Distinguishable from James P. Paul.

While the *James P. Paul* standard of review should not be applied in this case because the Commissioners ordered a review under A.R.S. § 40-252, there is another important reason why *James P. Paul* should not be applied. There are critical facts in this case which distinguish it from *James P. Paul* and which render its application in this case unfitting. On June 17, 1968, the Commission issued Decision 39520 in Docket U-2055 granting an order preliminary to James P. Paul and Betty J. Paul, a co-partnership doing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 33, lines 13-15.

business as James P. Paul Water Company ("Paul Water Company"), for the operation of a water company in approximately two and one-half sections of land in Maricopa County. A copy of Decision 39520 is attached hereto as <a href="Attachment 1">Attachment 1</a>. Decision 39520 stated that "upon receipt of written approval form the Arizona State Health Department an order shall issue granting applicants herein a certificate of convenience and necessity." On September 16, 1970, Paul Water Company filed the required approval and on October 1, 1970, the Commission issued Decision 40884 granting a CC&N to Paul Water Company. A copy of Decision 40884 is attached hereto as <a href="Attachment 2">Attachment 2</a>. Decision 40884 included standard terms of a CC&N but no other restrictions, conditions or encumbrances on the CC&N granted to Paul Water Company. Paul Water Company held its CC&N for nearly six years until an Application and Petition to Delete was filed by Pinnacle Paradise Water Company, Inc. ("PPWC") in Docket U-2079 on August 31, 1976. In its petition, PPWC sought to delete 240 acres from the Paul Water Company CC&N and have that property added to its own CC&N. Although the Commission granted PPWC's petition, the decision was overturned on appeal by the Arizona Supreme Court.

There are several important and relevant distinctions between this case and *James P. Paul*, as discussed below.

(i) There Were No Restrictions, Conditions or Encumbrances on the CC&N Granted to Paul Water Company whereas the Commission included Express Limitations and Encumbrances on the Authority Granted to AWC.

AWC and Staff unfairly characterize Decisions 66893 and 69722 as granting an unconditional and perfected CC&N to AWC to serve the Comman Tweedy Property. If that were true, we would not be in this proceeding. While Paul Water Company is an example of a water company that received an unconditional and perfected CC&N as a result of Decision 40884, AWC is certainly not. Decision 69722 included the following conditions, limitations and encumbrances applicable to AWC and the Comman Tweedy Property:

• Finding of Fact 100. "There may not be a current need or necessity for water service in the portions of the extension area that are owned by Cornman, and Cornman does not wish to have its property included in Arizona Water's CC&N at this time. These issues bear further examination and may have some relevance to the best interests of the area ultimately to be served." There was no language in the Paul Water Company CC&N questioning whether or not there was a need for water service.

- Finding of Fact 101. "It is in the public interest to remand this case to the Hearing Division for further proceedings regarding whether Arizona Water should continue to hold a CC&N for the Cornman extension area at this time." There was no language in the Paul Water Company CC&N remanding the case for further proceedings regarding whether the Paul Water Company should continue to hold its CC&N.
- Finding of Fact 102. "As the CC&N holder, Arizona Water is entitled to appropriate notice and an opportunity to be heard. Our subsequent proceeding on remand will be for the purpose of considering whether the Cornman Tweedy property should be deleted from the CC&N extension granted to Arizona Water by Decision 66893." There was no language in the Paul Water Company CC&N putting the utility on notice that property might be excluded from its CC&N.
- Finding of Fact 103. "The Hearing Division should conduct further evidentiary proceedings in this matter, including appropriate opportunities for intervention and an appropriate opportunity for Arizona Water to be heard." There was no language in the Paul Water Company CC&N directing a further evidentiary hearing on the CC&N.
- Finding of Fact 104. "The proceeding on remand should be broad in scope so that the Commission may develop a record to consider the overall public interest underlying service to the Cornman property that is included in the extension area granted by Decision No. 66893. By identifying these issues and requiring further proceedings, we are not prejudging this matter in any way; instead, we merely desire an opportunity to consider the broader public interests implicated herein." There was no language in the Paul Water Company CC&N regarding a proceeding on remand to develop a record to further consider the public interest underlying service to the property included in the CC&N

Unlike Paul Water Company, AWC has never held a CC&N for the Cornman Tweedy property which is free of the types of restrictions, conditions and encumbrances that are contained in Findings of Fact 100, 101, 102, 103 and 104, and Conclusions of

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Law 4 and 5. The effect of these restrictions, conditions and encumbrances is that AWC's authority with respect to the Cornman Tweedy Property is restricted and ultimately dependent upon the resolution of central inquiry in this case, which is, whether the Cornman Tweedy Property should be excluded from AWC's CC&N. In other words, AWC does not hold a CC&N that is unconditional and vested.

### (ii) PPWC Sought to Delete Land from Paul Water Company's CC&N to Add to its Own CC&N.

Another relevant distinction between James P. Paul and this case is the fact that in James P. Paul, PPWC was seeking to delete territory from Paul Water Company's CC&N and add that property to PPWC's CC&N. The inquiry in this case is expressly limited to whether or not it is in the public interest to exclude the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N. In Mayes Proposed Amendment No. 1, former Commissioner Mayes correctly explained the effect of excluding the Cornman Tweed Property from AWC's CC&N:

This order does not preclude Arizona Water Company or any other water company from filing a future application to provide service in the area owned by Cornman, and the Commission will analyze all the relevant public policy factors at that time, including whether Arizona Water Company or another prospective water company is capable of providing an integrated water and wastewater solution.9

If the Commission decides to exclude the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N at this time, any entity including AWC can apply to serve the property in the future when service is needed.

> The Paul Water Company CC&N Was Unchallenged for (iii) Six Years whereas AWC's Authority with respect to the Cornman Tweedy Property has Been Challenged Virtually Since Decision 66893 Was Issued.

In James P. Paul, the Commission was asked to delete a vested and unconditional CC&N from Paul Water Company, which it had held for six years, and give it to PPWC.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Mayes Proposed Amendment No. 1 prepared and docketed December 13, 2010 in Docket W-01445A-03-0559 at 2.

In sharp contrast, there has never been a time when AWC has held a CC&N for the Cornman Tweedy Property which is free of all restrictions, conditions and encumbrances. On April 6, 2004, the Commission issued Decision 66893 granting a CC&N with conditions to AWC for an area which included the Cornman Tweedy Property. On April 7, 2005, Cornman Tweedy filed a letter in the docket asserting that Decision 66893 was null and void because AWC had failed to satisfy the conditions by the April 6, 2005 deadline. The letter further stated that Cornman Tweedy did not desire to have its property included in the Extension Area, that Cornman Tweedy had requested water utility service from Picacho Water Company, and that Cornman Tweedy would prefer to receive integrated water and wastewater service from Picacho Water Company and Picacho Sewer Company for reasons of cost, convenience, timing, avoidance of confusion, and avoidance of unnecessary duplication of facilities. Since filing the April 2005 letter up to and including this date, Cornman Tweedy has continuously endeavored to have its property excluded from AWC's CC&N.

Similarly, Cornman Tweedy is the successor-in-interest to approximately 649 acres previously owned by the Dermer Family Trust. The Dermer Family Trust docketed a letter dated April 21, 2004, stating that due to the illness and death of the trust's principal, the Dermer Family Trust was not aware of AWC's application, did not receive notice of the application, and did not want the trust's 649 acres included in AWC's CC&N. Again, since filing the April 2004 letter up to and including this date, the Dermer Family Trust and Cornman Tweedy thereafter have continuously endeavored to have the Dermer Family Trust property excluded from AWC's CC&N. Obviously, the facts of *James P. Paul* are very different.

Cornman Tweedy would add also that since it filed its Motion to Intervene in this docket on May 19, 2005, AWC has had notice that the Cornman Tweedy Property could be excluded from its CC&N. That is another distinguishing factor between this case and *James P. Paul*.

## (iv) There is No Need for Water Service to the Cornman Tweedy Property.

Unlike *James P. Paul*, there is no need and necessity or current request for water service to the Cornman Tweedy Property. However, in its Application and Petition to Delete, PPWC informed the Commission that the developer was "planning to develop the Property ... in the near future" and the petition was supported by requests for service from the various landowners whose properties were included in the petition. In sharp contrast, the evidence is uncontroverted that water service is <u>not</u> needed at the Cornman Tweedy Property, and much of Cornman Tweedy's pre-filed testimony addresses this point.

# (v) The Paul Water Company CC&N Deletion Was filed by PPWC in a Separate Docket whereas this Case has been One Continuous Docket.

The Application and Petition to Delete filed by PPWC was filed in a new Docket U-2079 and not Docket U-2055 which was the docket for Paul Water Company's CC&N application. In contrast, this case has been one continuous proceeding regarding the area covered in Decision 66893. It is significant that Decision 69722: (i) remanded the case pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252 within the same docket; (ii) acknowledged that the previous proceeding had been limited to relatively narrow issues; (iii) put AWC on notice that the Cornman Tweedy Property could be deleted from the CC&N area covered by Decision 66893; and (iv) directed that this remand proceeding be "broad in scope so that the Commission may develop a record to consider the overall public interest underlying service to the Cornman property." This remand proceeding, as ordered by Decision 69722, is a further continuation of Docket No. W-01445A-03-0559.

# 3. The Review Ordered by the Commission under A.R.S. § 40-252 in this Case is Akin to the Review Conducted in Arizona Corporation Commission v. Arizona Water Company.

The Arizona Supreme Court specifically distinguished *James P. Paul* from another case which is more applicable to this case. In *Arizona Corporation Commission v. Arizona Water Company*, 111 Ariz. 74, 523 P.2d 505 (1974), AWC and R.J. Fernandez (doing business as Holiday Forest Water Company) filed competing applications for a CC&N to

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supply water to a half section of land that was undergoing residential development. AWC was granted the CC&N and Fernandez filed for reconsideration. In the ensuing remand proceeding, the Commission rescinded AWC's CC&N and gave it to Fernandez. AWC appealed, the Superior Court vacated the Commission's action, and the Court of Appeals affirmed, holding that "evidence that the public interest would best be served by the certification of [the competitor] in place of the Arizona Water Company is insubstantial as opposed to the evidence offered by the Arizona Water Company and, therefore . . . the record clearly supports the Superior Court's conclusions." The Arizona Supreme Court quoted this language in James P. Paul, and then distinguished Arizona Water Company from *James P. Paul*, stating:

Arizona Water Co. is distinguishable because it presented a challenge to the Commission's initial grant of a certificate of convenience and necessity. Where a request for a certificate of convenience and necessity is made in the first instance, the public interest is determined by comparing the capabilities and qualifications of competitors vying for the exclusive right to provide the relevant service. The amounts of time and money competitors must spend (at the consumers' ultimate expense) to provide service become primary determinants of the public interest. But the instant case did not involve a request for certification in the first instance. Instead, it involved a request for a deletion in a certificate issued some seven years earlier. Where a public service corporation holds a certificate for a given area, the public interest requires that that corporation be allowed to retain its certificate until it is unable or unwilling to provide needed service at a reasonable rate.

The Arizona Water Company case affirmed that the Commission may consider the full panoply of public interest issues when considering an initial grant of a CC&N. The review in this case was ordered pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252 which allows the Commission to rescind, alter or amend any order or decision upon a showing that the public interest would be served by its action. The scope of the review that has been directed by the Commission in this case is clearly more like the review that was conducted in Arizona Water Company.

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### В. AWC Does Not Hold an Unconditional CC&N for the Cornman Tweedy Property.

AWC and Staff characterize Decisions 66893 and 69722 as granting an unconditional and perfected CC&N to AWC to serve the Cornman Tweedy Property.<sup>10</sup> Cornman Tweedy might be inclined to agree had the Commission issued Decision 69722 without Findings of Fact 100, 101, 102, 103 and 104, and without Conclusions of Law 4 and 5, and without the Ordering Paragraphs at page 20, lines 26-28, and page 21, lines 1-4. These provisions, each and every one of which was specifically added to Decision 69722 by the adopted Gleason Proposed Amendment #3, cannot selectively be read out of the order. In fact, these provisions should be given greater deference because they were added by the Commissioners themselves, as opposed to the recommended opinion and order which they approved which was prepared by the administrative law judge.

Cornman Tweedy submits that the Commission's intent with respect to this proceeding was clear. Thus, to the extent that there is any confusion or ambiguity in the provisions of Decision 69722, it should be construed in a way which gives effect to—and does not negate—the Commission's intent. As discussed in Cornman Tweedy's Opening Post-Hearing Brief, Commission decisions are akin to legislative enactments so the rules are construing legislative intend are instructive for this proceeding. In Mail Boxes v. Industrial Commission of Arizona, 181 Ariz. 119, 888 P.2d 777 (1995), the Arizona Supreme Court explained as follows:

The primary rule of statutory construction is to find and give effect to legislative intent. State v. Korzep, 165 Ariz. 490, 493, 799 P.2d 831, 834 (1990). We look first to the statute's words. Kriz v. Buckeye Petroleum Co.. 145 Ariz. 374, 377, 701 P.2d 1182, 1185 (1985). Words have their ordinary meaning unless the context of the statute requires otherwise. Carrow Co. v. Lusby, 167 Ariz. 18, 20, 804 P.2d 747, 749 (1991). Where language is unambiguous, it is normally conclusive, absent a clearly expressed legislative intent to the contrary. Corbin v. Pickrell, 136 Ariz. 589, 592, 667 P.2d 1304, 1307 (1983).11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 17, line 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Mail Boxes v. Industrial Commission of Arizona, 888 P.2d 777, 779, 181 Ariz. 119 (1995).

Arizona courts have further held that statutory constructions which provide absurd results are to be avoided. For example, in *Knight Transportation*, *Inc. v. Arizona Department of Transportation*, 203 Ariz. 447, 55 P.3d 790 (App. 2002), the Arizona Court of Appeals explained as follows:

Generally, in construing a statute, our primary purpose is to give effect to the legislature's intent. *Calik v. Kongable*, 195 Ariz. 496, 498, ¶ 10, 990 P.2d 1055, 1057 (1999). If an ambiguity exists, we consider the statute as a whole, as well as its context, subject matter, history, consequences, and purpose. *Id.* at 500, ¶ 16, 990 P.2d at 1059. Further, we attempt to give a statute "a fair and sensible meaning," *Walter v. Wilkinson*, 198 Ariz. 431, 432, ¶ 6, 10 P.3d 1218, 1219 (App. 2000), and to avoid a construction that produces an absurd result. *State v. Affordable Bail Bonds*, 198 Ariz. 34, 37, ¶ 13, 6 P.3d 339, 342 (App. 2000). Finally, we consider a statute's meaning in relation to other statutes with the same or similar purpose. *See Keenen v. Biles*, 199 Ariz. 266, 268, ¶ 6, 17 P.3d 111, 113 (App. 2001); *U.S. Xpress, Inc. v. Ariz. Tax Court*, 179 Ariz. 363, 366, 879 P.2d 371, 374 (App. 1994) (related statutes should be construed as if one law). <sup>12</sup>

AWC's assertion that is holds a fully vested and unconditional CC&N does not reconcile with the language added to Decision 69722 by Gleason Proposed Amendment #3. The authority that AWC received pursuant to Decision 69722 clearly conveyed something less than a fully vested and unconditional CC&N. That authority, such as it is, was subject to the restrictions, conditions and encumbrances of Findings of Fact 100, 101, 102, 103 and 104, and Conclusions of Law 4 and 5.

## C. Cornman Tweedy Does Not Bear the Burden of Proof of a Complainant or Applicant Under A.A.C. R14-3-109(G) or James P. Paul.

AWC asserts, erroneously, that "Cornman Tweedy is the applicant/complainant pursuing deletion" and that pursuant to A.A.C. R14-3-109(G), Cornman Tweedy carries the burden of proof.<sup>13</sup> Further, AWC cites Decision 67112 from a case involving a customer complaint filed against Mohave Electric Cooperative for the proposition that "[i]n a Complaint proceeding, the burden of proof is on the Complainant to go forward

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Knight Transportation, Inc. v. Arizona Department of Transportation, 203 Ariz. 447, 55 P.3d 790, 795 (App. 2002).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 20, lines 13-15.

and establish, by a preponderance of the evidenced, that he has a valid complaint for which relief can be granted."<sup>14</sup> Complaint proceedings are conducted pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-246, but this is not a complaint case. Rather, this review was ordered by the Commission pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252, as set forth in Decision 69722, for the purpose of determining "whether Arizona Water should continue to hold a CC&N for the Cornman extension area at this time."<sup>15</sup> In *Arizona Water Company*, the Arizona Supreme Court explained as follows:

By A.R.S. § 40--252, the Commission may at any time upon notice to a public service corporation and after opportunity to be heard rescind, alter or amend any order or decision made by it. We have said that Arizona is a regulated monopoly state and that "The monopoly is tolerated only because it is to be subject to vigilant and continuous regulation by the Corporation Commission, and is subject to rescission, alteration or amendment at any time upon proper notice when the public interest would be served by such action." *Davis v. Corporation Commission*, 96 Ariz. 215, 218, 393 P.2d 909, 911 (1964). The Commission therefore in rescinding its order certificating the Arizona Water Company to serve the one-half section in dispute was compelled to act upon a showing that the public interest would be served by its action. *And see Arizona Corporation v. Tucson Insurance and Bonding Agency*, 3 Ariz. App. 458, 415 P.2d 472, 478 (1966). (emphasis added)

Cornman Tweedy is not a customer of AWC, unlike the complainant in the Mohave Electric Cooperative case cited by AWC.<sup>16</sup> Rather, Cornman Tweedy is an intervenor in a case wherein the Commissions has directed a review under A.R.S. § 40-252 to consider "the overall public interest underlying service to the Cornman property that is included in the extension area granted by Decision No. 66893."<sup>17</sup> In this case, the parties have presented evidence to develop a record upon which the Commission may act. Pursuant to Finding of Fact 100 in Decision 69722, that evidence addresses the fact that "[t]here may not be a current need or necessity for water service in the portions of the extension area that are owned by Cornman, and Cornman does not wish to have its property included in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 20, lines 21-24, citing Decision 67112, Finding of Fact 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Decision 69722, Finding of Fact 101 and Conclusions of Law 4-5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Decision 67112 involved a complaint filed by a customer against Mohave Electric Cooperative alleging that the cooperative had violated the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, Arizona law and Commission rules regarding the provision of electrical service to the customer's residence in Bullhead City.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Decision 69722, Finding of Fact 104.

Under the standard for an A.R.S. § 40-252 review articulated in *Arizona Water Company*, action taken by the Commission in this case after due consideration of the evidence presented must be based "upon a showing that the public interest would be served by its action." Cornman Tweedy is not a complainant and this is not a complaint case. Likewise, for all of the reasons discussed above, this is not a CC&N deletion case in the likeness of *James P. Paul* and the *James P. Paul* standard does not apply in this case. The Commission must decide, whether it serves the public interest for AWC to continue to hold a CC&N for the Cornman Tweedy Property.

## D. The Analysis Relevant to an Initial Grant of a CC&N is Relevant in this Case.

Citing *James P. Paul*, AWC argues that "the Arizona Supreme Court expressly rejected used in a deletion proceeding of the public interest standards that are applicable to the initial grant of a CC&N."<sup>20</sup> However, the analysis that is relevant in the initial grant of a CC&N is appropriate in this case in order to develop the record that the Commission has ordered in Decision 69722. For reasons that are discussed at length herein, this is not a deletion case in the likeness of *James P. Paul* so the *James P. Paul* standard of review does not apply nor does it limit the Commission's authority to conduct the A.R.S. § 40-252 review that was ordered.

As noted in AWC's Post-Hearing Brief, "Cornman Tweedy argues that the Commission has expressed a view that integrated water and wastewater providers are superior to standalone providers and relies upon the Woodruff matter in support of that assertion." AWC argues that the analysis relevant to an initial CC&N determination,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Decision 69722, Finding of Fact 100.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> February 10, 2011 Procedural Order at \_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 22, lines 17-19 (citation omitted).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 21, lines 6-9.

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such as was applied in the Woodruff Water Company case, does not apply here.<sup>22</sup> However, that is the type of analysis that the Commission directed in this case. Namely, "whether a public service corporation, like Arizona Water, in this water challenged area and under the circumstances presented in this case, is providing reasonable service if it is not able or not willing to provide integrated water and wastewater services."23

In her article entitled Encouraging Conservation by Arizona's Private Water Companies: A New Era of Regulation by the Arizona Corporation Commission published in the Arizona Law Review, 49 Ariz. L. Rev. 297 (2007), former Commissioner Mayes discussed the Commission's preference for integrated water and wastewater utilities. specifically citing the example of Woodruff Water Company and Woodruff Utility Company:

In recent months, the Commission has issued decisions indicating a preference that new subdivisions be served, where possible, by integrated water and wastewater companies. These integrated utilities help to achieve economies of scale, encourage conservation efforts, and facilitate the use of effluent for golf course irrigation, ornamental lakes, and other water features. The concept of integrated wastewater and water companies was approved by the 1999 Commission Water Task Force, a working group comprised of Commission Staff, the Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO"). ADEQ, ADWR, and water company stakeholders. Though the Task Force's policy proposals have never been formally adopted by the Commission, the integrated water and wastewater model has been explicitly favored in several recent decisions. One of those cases involved a clash between the Arizona Water Company ("AWC"), a stand-alone water utility, and a competing entity that proposed to serve the area in question with an integrated water and wastewater operation.

In Woodruff, the Commission was presented with a choice between two water companies that wanted to serve the same 3,200 acre development (called Sandia) in a fast growing area of Pinal County. The Commission's decision was heavily influenced by the question of whether the CC&N should be granted to an entity capable of utilizing effluent. Ultimately, the Commission awarded the CC&N to Woodruff Water and Sewer Companies over AWC. The Commission chose Woodruff despite the fact [that] AWC was a far more experienced water provider.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 21, lines 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> February 10, 2011 Procedural Order at 2.

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Companies competing for the right to serve some of the state's fasted growing areas are advantaged when they present an integrated approach to the Commission, thus allowing Commissioners the opportunity to mandate the use of effluent from the moment the service area is created. (footnotes omitted).<sup>24</sup>

Mr. Johnson, the former Director of the Commission's Utilities Division, shares Commissioner Mayes' position that integrated utilities are preferred by the Commission:

The Commission clearly expressed its view that integrated providers are superior to standalone providers where the option exists when it granted CC&Ns to integrated provider Woodruff Water Company and Woodruff Utility Company over a competing application by AWC (Consolidated Docket Nos. W-04264A-04-0438, SW-04265A-04-0439 and W-01445A-04-0755). ... I am not aware of any decision since where the Commission has abandoned or backtracked from that view. In my opinion, the fact that AWC has recently entered into collaborative agreements regarding wastewater service is evidence that AWC believes the Commission holds this view.<sup>25</sup>

Similarly, consideration of the need for service is also part of the analysis relevant to the initial grant of a CC&N, as are the wishes of the landowner. Again, the Commission directed that this proceeding should address the fact that "[t]here may not be a current need or necessity for water service in the portions of the extension area that are owned by Cornman, and Cornman does not wish to have its property included in Arizona Water's CC&N at this time."26 Clearly, the Commission intended for the scope of this proceeding to be more like an initial grant of a CC&N. Because this proceeding is occurring under A.R.S. § 40-252, the Commission certainly has that authority as it may "act upon a showing that the public interest would be served by its action."27

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Exhibit CT-103 (Poulos Rebuttal Testimony), Exhibit 2 at 304-305.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Exhibit CT-110 (Johnson Rejoinder Testimony) at 19-20 (emphasis added).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Decision 69722, Finding of Fact 100.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Arizona Water Company, 523 P.2d at 507.

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### E. Excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N is in the Public Interest and is Appropriate Under A.R.S. § 40-252.

AWC argues that "an examination of the totality of the evidence presented in this docket reveals that Arizona Water Company remains the fit and proper entity to hold the CC&N for the Cornman Tweedy property."28 To the contrary, a preponderance of the evidence fully supports excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N for the reasons discussed below.

### 1. AWC has a Long Record of Hostility toward the Efforts of Other to Use Reclaimed Wastewater in the Areas that AWC Serves.

AWC's assertion that it has "extensive experience cooperating with other utilities to provide water and wastewater services in a manner that meets Arizona's statewide water policy goals"29 is controverted by the evidence presented in this case. For decades, AWC has opposed the use of reclaimed water by others within the areas it serves. While AWC asserts that the company mind-set has recently changed, its actions don't yet bear that out. The fact is that the sale of effluent within AWC's CC&N competes with AWC's sale of water. For example, in its lawsuit challenging the City of Casa Grande's plans to supply effluent to a new power plant which would have displaced the sale of Central Arizona Project water to the power plant by AWC, AWC's President Bill Garfield testified that "we looked at the sources of water as roughly equivalent. Both were non-potable." This inherent perspective of effluent as competition to the sale of water is one of the serious problems of stand-alone water companies versus integrated water and wastewater providers.

While AWC may pay lip service to the beneficial use of effluent, its actions over many years have shown a hostility toward the efforts of others to use effluent within the areas it serves water. In Arizona Water Company v. City of Bisbee, 172 Ariz, 176, 836 P.2d 389 (App. 1991), the Arizona Court of Appeals ruled on a lawsuit brought by AWC challenging the right of the City of Bisbee to deliver effluent from the City's wastewater

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 23, lines 4-6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 27, lines 8-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 470, lines 10-11.

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treatment plant to Phelps Dodge in the mid-1980s for use in its copper leaching operations, which were located within AWC's CC&N. AWC argued that Bisbee's delivery of effluent within AWC's CC&N constituted a competing service in violation of A.R.S. §§ 9-515 and 9-516.31

A little more than a decade later, AWC challenged in court an agreement by the City of Casa Grande to supply effluent to the Desert Basin Generating Station in Casa Grande.<sup>32</sup> Once again, like in the City of Bisbee case, the court ruled against AWC. AWC claims that "following those dark years, 1999, 2000, 2001," it has worked with the City of Casa Grande to plan for the distribution of effluent within the City.<sup>33</sup> However, actions always speak louder than words, and this alleged new cooperative relationship has not delivered any additional effluent, as evidenced by the testimony of Mr. Garfield at the hearing:

- Q. Is Arizona Water Company currently providing any effluent to any customer within the City of Casa Grande?
- A. No we are not.<sup>34</sup>

As the sole example of a location within its service territory where AWC is providing reclaimed water, AWC offers the case of Gold Canyon Sewer Company. However, this is yet another example of AWC challenging the delivery of effluent by another within its service area. On September 27, 1988, Gold Canyon Sewer Company filed an application with the Commission for a certificate of convenience and necessity to provide sewer collection and treatment service in Pinal County, Arizona.<sup>35</sup> Included in its application was a request to provide reclaimed water service.<sup>36</sup> However, "[b]ecause of AWC's concern that its existing water service certificate rights are jeopardized or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> City of Bisbee, 172 Ariz. 176, 177, 836 P.2d 389, 390.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> AWC witness Paul Walker discussed this case in footnote 16 of his whitepaper entitled *Total Water* Management: Resource Conservation in the Fact of Population Growth and Water Scarcity, which was admitted as Exhibit CT-116.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. II at 381, line 17, and 382, lines 10-12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 488-489.

<sup>35</sup> Exhibit CT-125 at 1, Recital D.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Exhibit CT-125 at 1, Recital D

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diminished by reason of the reclaimed Water portion of the Application, [AWC] intervened in the Docket and lodged its opposition to that portion of Gold Canyon's Application."37 In order to get its CC&N, Gold Canyon Sewer Company capitulated and entered into an Agreement for the Purchase, Sale and Resale of Reclaimed Water in Apache Junction, Arizona, whereby AWC became the exclusive supplier of effluent within Gold Canyon Sewer Company's CC&N.<sup>38</sup>

The Gold Canyon Sewer Company agreement clearly illuminates AWC's true mind-set regarding the use of effluent within its CC&N, which is that the sale of reclaimed wastewater by another utility "jeopardizes" and "diminishes" its CC&N rights. This position has been seen over and over again as in the cases of the City of Bisbee and the City of Casa Grande. And, the Gold Canyon Sewer Company service area is the one and only place where AWC is providing effluent within its massive service area, as Mr. Garfield acknowledged in his testimony:

- Q. Okay. Is Arizona Water Company providing any effluent to any customer anywhere outside of its Superstition service area where it provides effluent produced by Gold Canyon Sewer Company?
- Not currently.<sup>39</sup> A.

AWC also touts a May 15, 2008 Settlement Agreement<sup>40</sup> between AWC and Global Water Resources, LLC, as an example of how AWC works cooperatively with wastewater providers "to deliver [reclaimed water] to customers who are able to put it to beneficial use for landscape and other similar purposes."41 Section 7(a) of the Settlement Agreement, which is captioned "Agreement to Cooperate," states as follows:

Global, including without limitation its subsidiary Global Water-Palo a. Verde Utilities Company, shall enter into an agreement with Arizona Water Company to supply available reclaimed water to Arizona Water Company, if requested, to be sold and delivered by Arizona Water

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Exhibit CT-125 at 2, Recital E.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> See Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 475, lines 2-10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 489, lines 2-6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> The Settlement Agreement was admitted as Exhibit CT-126.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Exhibit AWC-1 (Direct Testimony of William Garfield, Remand II) at 5, lines 14-15.

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Company within its CCN and Planning Area. In order to ensure that maximum efficiencies can be attained by Arizona Water Company in its deployment of potable and reclaimed water, neither Global nor Global Water-Palo Verde Utilities Company shall sell or distribute reclaimed water within Arizona Water Company's CCN or Planning Area except to Arizona Water Company, which shall be the retail provider of reclaimed water in such areas. Global Water-Palo Verde Utilities Company shall not be obligated to sell reclaimed water to Arizona Water Company in any amount in excess of the amount of reclaimed water generated in the Overlap Areas.<sup>42</sup>

Although the Settlement Agreement was signed nearly eight years ago, the agreement for Global Water Resources to supply effluent to AWC for sale and delivery within AWC's CC&N and Planning Area has never been prepared or signed. Mr. Garfield conceded at the hearing that neither Global Water Resources nor any of its affiliates has ever delivered any effluent to AWC nor has AWC ever requested effluent from Global Water Resources or any of its affiliates, noting that it has not been high on AWC's priority list. 43 However, Mr. Garfield did acknowledged one function of Section 7(a) that appears to be operating as AWC intends:

- Q. Mr. Garfield, I guess one more question. That provision 7A that we looked at, does that section prohibit Global Water or Global Water Palo Verde Utilities from selling effluent to anyone within Arizona Water Company's CC&N or its planning area?
- That's my read, yes.44 A.

As another purported example of its interest in reclaimed wastewater, AWC witnesses Garfield and Schneider testified regarding a July 25, 2014, memorandum of understanding ("MOU")<sup>45</sup> between AWC and PERC Water Corporation ("PERC") whereby AWC could "permit, design and construct the necessary wastewater facilities in areas where Arizona Water Company is currently, or could potentially be, the water provider and where no wastewater provider currently exists."46 Section 1(b) of the MOU

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Exhibit CT-126 at 7 (emphasis added).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 481, lines 15-16, and 483-484.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 484, lines 12-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> The MOU was admitted as Exhibit CT-127.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> AWC-3 (Direct Testimony of Frederick Schneider, Remand II) at 14, lines 14-17; Exhibit AWC-1 (Direct Testimony of William Garfield, Remand II) at 9, lines 1-5.

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states that "Arizona Water will notify PERC of the opportunity to join with Arizona Water to provide sewer/wastewater service in a development or identified region within Arizona Water's service area or an intended additional to Arizona Water's existing service area."47 However, in the nearly two years since the MOU was signed, AWC has never notified PERC of an opportunity to join together on a project and no drafts of any agreements in furtherance of the MOU have ever been created.<sup>48</sup>

The PERC MOU also contains Section 1(d) which provides that "[a]ny agreement between the parties to provide sewer-wastewater service in Arizona Water's service areas will provide mutually acceptable terms and conditions for PERC to deliver all or part of the effluent or reclaimed water PERC produces to Arizona for direct or indirect beneficial use by its customers."49 With this provision, like Gold Canyon Sewer Company, AWC has limited the ability of another entity to deliver reclaimed water within its CC&N, as shown in Mr. Garfield's testimony at hearing:

- ... So as I read that provision, would Arizona Water Company be the Q. provider of effluent within Arizona Water Company's certificated areas?
- I think this contemplates that, yes.<sup>50</sup> A.

Thus, AWC has precluded yet another entity from providing reclaimed water within its CC&N area under the guise of a "cooperative" agreement.

AWC offered as one of its witnesses Rita Pearson Maguire, the former Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. However, before Ms. Maguire was retained as a witness for AWC, she was a witness for Global Water Resources, LLC, on behalf of its integrated water and wastewater providers Santa Cruz Water Company and Palo Verde Utilities Company in Consolidated Docket Nos. W-01445A-06-0199, SW-03575A-05-0926 and W-03576A-05-0926. In Direct Testimony filed in those dockets, and admitted in this docket as CT-128, Ms. Maguire testified regarding the critical importance of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Exhibit CT-127 at 1, Section 1(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 486, lines 4-13, and 487, lines 4-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Exhibit CT-127 at 2, Section 1(e).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 487, lines 14-17.

use of reclaimed water:

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- How important is the use of reclaimed water and effluent to ensuring we O. have adequate water supplies in the future?
- Using reclaimed water is critical. This is because the future development A. and use of the state's water resources will create additional wastewater. Reclaiming or reusing this wastewater has the potential to significantly increase the amount of water available for potable use.

- Has there been a movement towards exploring and implementing uses for Q. reclaimed water and effluent?
- ... As the scarcity and cost of water increases, water providers will find it Α. cost-effective to invest in integrated water and wastewater systems that can utilize up to 100% of the reclaimed water produced. This water can reduce groundwater usage by substituting reclaimed water for use in public parks, cemeteries, golf courses, and other public areas. The sooner water providers and state policies promote the use of reclaimed water and wastewater, our ability to meet the water needs of the state's communities will be more secure.51

On cross examination, Ms. Maguire acknowledged her continuing agreement with these prior statements from her testimony in the consolidated Global Water Resources dockets, adding:

... It is important to think about the context. This was with respect to Global Utilities and their purple pipe concept, but also it is in the context of 2007. At that point, the use of effluent in the state was only about 2 percent of the state's water budget. Today, it exceeds 7 percent, and it is continuing to go up because it is becoming a valuable supply.<sup>52</sup>

At the point in time when the Cornman Tweedy Property is developed, Cornman Tweedy wants utility service from integrated water and wastewater providers who recognize and value the critical role of effluent in prudent water management. AWC has a demonstrated track record of aggressively opposing the efforts of others to use effluent within its service areas. AWC's purported newfound mind-set supporting the use of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Exhibit CT-128 (Direct Testimony of Rita Maguire) at 21, lines 13-18 and 22, lines 1-15 (emphasis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 588, lines 14-21.

Through the integration of water and wastewater service, Cornman Tweedy can ensure that the beneficial use and recharge of effluent will be maximized within its property. Based upon its track record, this is unlikely to occur if AWC holds the water CC&N for the Cornman Tweedy Property. For this reason, Cornman Tweedy does not believe that AWC can provide reasonable service to its property.

# 2. A.R.S. § 40-321 Does Not Apply in this Case and Does Not Prohibit the Commission from Excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N Pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252.

AWC argues that the only statute which addresses the reasonableness or unreasonableness of service is A.R.S. § 40-321 which provides that "[w]hen the commission finds that the equipment, appliances, facilities or service of any public service corporation, or the methods of manufacture, distribution, transmission, storage or supply employed by it, are unjust, unreasonable, unsafe, improper, inadequate or insufficient, the commission shall determine what is just, reasonable, safe, proper, adequate or sufficient, and shall enforce its determination by order or regulation." However, implicit in the application of A.R.S. § 40-321 is the predicate that there exists a utility which is conducting its business in a way which is materially deficient. The application of A.R.S. § 40-321 would be nonsensical in this case because AWC is not providing service to the Cornman Tweedy Property, so the predicate for application of A.R.S. § 40-321 fails. 55

Forcing the application of A.R.S. § 40-321 in this case is no different than forcing the application of the *James P. Paul* standard of review—both are antithetical to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 25, lines 9-14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> See Qwest Corporation v. Kelly, 59 P.3d 789, 204 Ariz. 25 (Ct. App. 2002) at footnote 2 ("Section 40-321 gives the Commission the power to oversee a public service corporation's business and ensure that it is conducting business in a safe, reasonable, and proper manner.") (emphasis added)

To illustrate the absurdity of the point, AWC asserts that "[h]ere, no one has presented any evidence of any improprieties, nor has any order to show cause been issued or directives issued by Staff of the Commission requiring Arizona Water Company to take any particular actions to remedy a service issue." (AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 25-26). There is no service issue to address under A.R.S. § 40-321 because AWC is not providing service to the Cornman Tweedy Property.

Commission's express directives as outlined in Decision 69722. Obviously, there is no mention of A.R.S. § 40-321 in Decision 69722 nor is there anything to suggest that the Commission intended for the remand to proceed under that statute. To the contrary, Decision 69722 specifically directs a review under A.R.S. § 40-252 to determine, among other things, "whether a public service corporation, like Arizona Water, in this water challenged area and under the circumstances presented in this case, is providing reasonable service if it is not able or not willing to provide integrated water and wastewater services." And, as discussed earlier, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled in *Arizona Water Company* that in matters which are subject to A.R.S. § 40-252, the Commission must "act upon a showing that the public interest would be served by its action." Thus, the Commission's authority to act in this case is not limited to relief under A.R.S. § 40-321 as AWC claims.

# 3. Because AWC is Unable to Provide Integrated Water and Wastewater Service to the Cornman Tweedy Property, it cannot Provide Reasonable Service to the Property.

AWC argues that "integration is not necessary for Arizona Water Company to provide reasonable service in a water-challenged area like the Pinal AMA."<sup>57</sup> However, AWC's own witness Paul Walker, perhaps at a time before he was being compensated by AWC, <sup>58</sup> co-authored a whitepaper admitted as Exhibit CT-116 which advocated the superiority of an integrated water and wastewater approach over services provided by stand-alone providers. In his whitepaper, Mr. Walker explained that water providers have not embraced effluent reuse and he identified one of the factors hampering a broad utilization of effluent as "[a] lack of integrated service suppliers."<sup>59</sup> Mr. Walker defines "integrated service suppliers" in footnote 14 as those "providing water, wastewater and recycled water service."<sup>60</sup> Mr. Walker continues:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Arizona Water Company, 523 P.2d at 507.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 28, lines 3-4.

<sup>58</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 622, lines 15-17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> CT-116 at 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> CT-116 at 6, footnote 14.

Integrated service suppliers provide both water and wastewater services within a region. In situations where an integrated supplier does not exist, opportunities to make use of recycled water are difficult. Obviously, it is the wastewater utility that collects wastewater, treats it to regulatory standards, and distributes recycled water – often to the economic detriment of the water utility. In some cases, water utilities have litigated over the right to distribute recycled water claiming they have such a "right," despite not owning the resource. This litigation further stifles recycled water's potential application. When water and wastewater utilities are placed at odds, neither party advances the use of this valuable resource. <sup>61</sup>

Mr. Walker was clearly referencing AWC in identifying utilities which have litigated over the rights of others to distribute effluent as evidenced by footnote 16 which specifically discusses the City of Casa Grande litigation. In footnote 15, Mr. Walker explains further that "[t]he use of recycled water in lieu of potable water means a diminished demand for the potable water produced by local water companies – reduced water sales diminish the water company's revenues." Mr. Garfield acknowledged this point in his response to a question from the judge regarding whether AWC sees the delivery of effluent by a wastewater provider as competition for potable water service: "we still see that as potential competition, and it can still have an impact on the company's business...."62

In his whitepaper, Mr. Walker acknowledged the benefits of integration:

In addition to the technical aspects of integration, there are policy and financial benefits from integration. A joint Swedish-Polish research study viewed integration of water, wastewater and waste handling as part of a "municipal ecology." The study points out that the advantages of integration include "combinations with the energy sector ... improved technical functions, possibilities in a large organization to employ qualified staff, simplification of fee collection system, and less environmental emissions and resources depletion."<sup>63</sup>

Reclaimed water exists as the only water source experiencing an increase in availability (9.8% and growing). The State must move aggressively to support and mandate water recycling as a long term solution to water

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> CT-116 at 7-8 (citations omitted; emphasis added).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 508, lines 12-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> CT-116 at 8.

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The benefits of recycling can also be exploited by an integrated utility through common-trench construction, consistency of recycling objectives, commonality of standards and economies of scale for labor. 65

These benefits of integration identified by Mr. Walker in his whitepaper are many of the same benefits that have been identified and discussed by the Cornman Tweedy witnesses in this case. On cross-examination, Mr. Walker acknowledged his agreement with the foregoing statements contained in his whitepaper, 66 although he backtracked on his earlier conviction that the benefits of integration can only be achieved through and integrated water and wastewater provider. Mr. Walker's newly formed view that the benefits of integration may not necessarily require the actual integration of water and wastewater providers is based on the assertions that AWC and Global Water Resources and AWC and the City of Casa Grande have made plans to work together.<sup>67</sup> However, as the evidence in this case shows, nothing to date has materialized from those plans to work together even though those plans have existed for a number of years now. Cornman Tweedy would also point out that Mr. Walker never backtracked from his conviction that there are many benefits from integrating water and wastewater service.

While AWC asserts that it "is ready, willing and able to provide wastewater service in those areas where it provides water service, where there is a need for wastewater service, and where there is not existing capable or certificated wastewater provider already established,"68 it acknowledges that the question of whether AWC is able or willing to provide integrated water and wastewater service to the Cornman Tweedy Property is largely moot because "Picacho Sewer currently holds the CC&N to provide wastewater service to the Cornman Tweedy property."<sup>69</sup> However, Picacho Sewer Company already possesses the CC&N to provide wastewater service for the Cornman Tweedy Property, so

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> CT-116 at 34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> CT-116 at 35.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> See generally, Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 636-651.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 651, lines 19-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 27, lines 15-18 (emphasis added).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 32, lines 13-14.

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it is impossible for AWC to provide integrated water and wastewater service to the Cornman Tweedy Property.

AWC finds fault with the way that Robson-affiliated wastewater utilities manage the direct use and the storage of effluent. However, Mr. Soriano refuted AWC's assertions in his Rejoinder Testimony:

When an acre-foot of effluent is directly delivered to a golf course, this obviously avoids the pumping of an acre-foot of groundwater. However, when an acre-foot of effluent is recharged in the aquifer, the volume of water stored in the aguifer increases by an acre-foot and that water is available for future use. Whether effluent is directly used or stored through recharge, the benefit to the aguifer is the same. That is exactly the situation with respect to the 522.68 acre-feet of effluent that was stored by Pima Utility Company in 2014—that water has increased the stored water in the aquifer.

[AWC] is essentially quibbling with the timing of Robson's use of the effluent storage credits that are accumulated as a result of recharging the aguifer. However, the decision regarding when to use storage credits is a business decision to be made by the utility. The utilities that are owned by members of the Robson family are operated from a conservative business perspective. Because no one can know what the future may bring, including what new laws may be enacted or current laws changed, the conservative decision has been made to store water in the aquifer for future use. The timing of using effluent recharge storage credits is not important. What is important is that effluent is recharging the aquifer. The way we see it, putting money in a savings account is always a good thing. The fact that recharge credits are not used in the very same year they are accrued is a red herring.<sup>70</sup>

In responding to AWC's specific criticism regarding the accumulation of recharge credits by Robson-affiliate Robson Ranch Quail Creek, LLC,71 Mr. Soriano explained as follows:

Pima County is the wastewater provider for the area that is served by the Quail Creek Water Company. Pima County did not have a recharge facility to recharge its effluent and the effluent was being discharged to a wash. Seeing that the effluent resource was going to waste, Robson funded a \$1.2 million upgrade to Pima County's wastewater treatment plant so that it could produce high quality effluent suitable for recharge. Robson then funded and constructed a recharge facility so that the effluent storage credits could be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> CT 101 (Rejoinder Testimony of Steven Soriano) at 5-6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 28.

captured. Pursuant to a contract with Pima County, Robson Ranch Quail Creek LLC takes effluent from the County and recharges it at the recharge facility. As of December 31, 2014, Robson Ranch Quail Creek LLC had recharged 16,745.22 acre-feet of effluent in the aquifer.<sup>72</sup>

The salient point here is that customers of Quail Creek Water Company benefit greatly from the recharge project because 16,745.22 acre-feet of effluent have been recharged in the aquifer underlying the Quail Creek community, thereby firming up the supply of groundwater upon which they rely.

While the Robson-affiliated utilities are not the subject of this proceeding, there is ample evidence in the record which shows Robson's commitment to maximizing the beneficial use of effluent. AWC simply cannot show such a commitment.

# 4. A Decision to Exclude the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N Will be Limited to this Docket and these Parties, and it Will Not Have Broader Implications Beyond this Case.

As set forth in Judge Nodes' February 10, 2011, Procedural Order, the Commission voted to send this case back to the Hearing Division for further proceedings to determine "whether a public service corporation, like Arizona Water, in this water challenged area and under the circumstances presented in this case, is providing reasonable service if it is not able or not willing to provide integrated water and wastewater services." AWC seizes on the words "whether a public service corporation, like Arizona Water" in the procedural order and argues that the Commission intended a general inquiry into the public interest surrounding the integration of water and wastewater service in Arizona. However, this argument was previously disposed of by Judge Nodes at an October 5, 2011, procedural conference in this case. In a dialogue with counsel for AWC, Judge Nodes explained:

But the one point that I came away with based on the directive from the open meeting was we don't intend this to be a broad inquiry into the state policy of integration in general, that we want you, in the context of the circumstances of this case, to determine whether Arizona Water is providing reasonable service if it is not providing integrated water and wastewater services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> CT 101 (Rejoinder Testimony of Steven Soriano) at 10, lines 5-15.

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That was my understanding. I thought it was, that point was probably the one thing the Commissioners made absolutely clear to me in my trying to inquire exactly what they intended with regard to the motion.<sup>73</sup>

AWC next argues that "[e]ven if the language used by the Commission is construed narrowly to apply solely to Arizona Water Company..., a decision deleting the Cornman Tweedy property would set a precedent that others would rely upon....<sup>74</sup> However, this argument also lacks merit because the Commission is not subject to the judicial doctrine of stare decisis, which obligates a court of law to follow earlier judicial decisions when the same facts arise again in litigation. Rather, the Commission is always required to act in the public interest, regardless of prior decisions, and the public interest is evaluated based upon the facts and circumstances of each specific case. Thus, a decision by the Commission to exclude the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N does not bind a future Commission to act in the same way in a different case.

AWC asserts that the remand issue from the February 10, 2011 Procedural order "makes this an all encompassing, precedent-setting decision that will adversely impact 270+ water-only certificated public service corporations."<sup>75</sup> However, despite the fact that this case is now nearly 13 years old, and despite the fact that this case has come before the Commission during prior open meetings, and despite the fact that AWC witness Paul Walker (who has been involved in this case since at least May 2014 when he pre-filed testimony) has many associations with water companies in Arizona, not to mention AWC's own lengthy involvement in the water community, there has not been a single intervention request filed other than Cornman Tweedy. In his Rebuttal Testimony, Mr. Johnson testified that "[i]n my experience, water and wastewater utilities actively protect their interests when facing perceived financial harm or when their business interests are at risk."76 The facts simply do not support AWC's assertion that a decision in this case will be precedent-setting or that it will adversely impact 270+ water companies in Arizona.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings (Filed October 17, 2011) in Docket W-01445A-03-0559 at 39, lines 10-21 (emphasis added).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 33, lines 4-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 33, lines 13-15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> Exhibit CT-109 (Ernest Johnson Rebuttal Testimony) at 22, lines 19-21.

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Henny Penny is a folkloric creature who believed that the sky was falling based upon a hysterical and mistaken belief that disaster was imminent. In the same way, AWC is crying "the sky is falling" when it argues that excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from its CC&N "would result in ever-changing and uncertain CC&N configurations that would open and close over time depending on local demands and economic conditions, despite the fact that a utility if providing safe, adequate and reliable service."<sup>77</sup> There is no credible and tangible evidence in the record that would remotely support such a hysterical prediction of the future based upon a grant of the relief requested by Cornman Tweedy in this case. Cornman Tweedy desires that its property be served by a utility that can provide integrated water and wastewater service. The record has been fully developed regarding all of the reasons why this is so. There is no need for service at this time and, of course, AWC is not providing service to the Cornman Tweed Property. For these reasons, the Commission directed the administrative law judge to determine, in the context of the circumstances of this case, "whether Arizona Water is providing reasonable service if it is not providing integrated water and wastewater services."78 The decision in this case will be limited to this docket and these parties, not to the state generally.

AWC acknowledges that the issue raised by the Commission in this case is unique.<sup>79</sup> Yet somehow, AWC witness Paul Walker knows that an order excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N will cause a situation where "...integrated municipal providers will target unserved CC&N areas for deletion; developers with plans in water only CC&Ns will also likely do the same; and, frankly, integrated providers will likely start looking at CC&N areas bordering theirs, serviced by water-only providers, and seriously considering making similar filings."80 This is rank speculation without a shred of support in the record. Mr. Johnson provided a much more reasonable perspective on the likely effect:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 33, lines 1-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings (Filed October 17, 2011) in Docket W-01445A-03-0559 at 39, lines 10-21 (emphasis added).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 33, line 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 34, lines 8-12.

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[M]ost private utilities serving in the more populated growth areas of the state already provide integrated water and wastewater service. There has been substantial consolidation within the industry over the past decade with utilities such as Epcor Water, Global Water and Liberty Utilities acquiring smaller stand-alone water and wastewater companies. Thus, I do not believe that a decision to exclude the Cornman Tweedy property would cause alarm among the integrated providers such as Epcor Water Arizona, Global Utilities, Liberty Utilities, Johnson Utilities and the Robson utilities. In fact, these companies may even welcome a decision that would advance the integration of water and wastewater services. In addition, new applications for CC&N's to serve new developments now typically address both water and wastewater services, as in the cases of the Woodruff utilities, the Perkins Mountain utilities, and Southwest Environmental Utilities, to name a few.<sup>81</sup>

AWC argues that deletion of the Cornman Tweedy Property form AWC's CC&N "so that Picacho Water can serve an isolated peninsula of land that protrudes into and is surrounded by Arizona Water Company's water system would result in inefficiencies, needless duplication of water facilities, a loss of reliability and the loss of economies of regional scale."82 To the contrary, the evidence shows that none of things would occur, and that failing to exclude the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N will result in substantial and unnecessary infrastructure costs and a loss of reliability.<sup>83</sup> As discussed in Cornman Tweedy's Opening Post-Hearing Brief, if AWC is the water provider for the Cornman Tweedy Property, EJR Ranch will be split into two halves—the north half served by AWC and the south half which will be served by Picacho Water Company. This would necessitate two separate water campuses to serve EJR Ranch instead of a single water campus which would increase infrastructure costs to the developer and ultimately increase water rates to the residents. Dr. Fred Goldman, testified that allowing AWC to serve the Cornman Tweedy Property would add approximately \$4 million in costs that future rate payers will be forced to bear for water service. He testified that these added costs include construction of extra wells, construction of extra water storage and booster pump capacity, additional land acquisition costs and design costs, costs for an additional pressure zone,

<sup>81</sup> Exhibit CT-109 (Johnson Rebuttal, Remand II) at 22-23.

<sup>82</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 34, lines 18-23.

<sup>83</sup> Exhibit CT-105 (Goldman Direct, Remand) at 4.

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time delays and lost economies of scale.84

Regarding AWC's assertion that there will be a "loss of economies of regional scale," Dr. Goldman testified that any economies of scale associated with including the Cornman Tweedy Property in AWC's CC&N would not even be measurable. 85 However, Dr. Goldman testified that there would be substantial benefits to someday including the 1,138-acre Cornman Tweedy property in the approximately 4,500-acre existing certificated territory of Picacho Water Company:

The eventual inclusion of the Cornman Tweedy property would increase the size of the existing Picacho Water Company CC&N by approximately 25%. An increase of 25% would significantly improve the reliability and efficiency of the Picacho Water Company water system. The economies of scale would be very noticeable....<sup>86</sup>

AWC argues that excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from its CC&N would injure AWC "because Arizona Water Company would be left to develop and operate a water system that surrounds the Cornman Tweedy property, but with that property served by a separate stand-alone water system lacking the capacity, resources and scale of operations that Arizona Water Company brings to its CC&N."87 This argument is without merit for at least three reasons. First, Picacho Water Company already holds the CC&N to serve south of the southern boundary of AWC's CC&N in this area, so AWC will have to develop and operate a water system around Picacho Water Company no matter what happens in this case. Second, commenting on the testimony of Mr. Schneider, Dr. Goldman testified that the Cornman Tweedy Property represents only one-third of one percent of AWC's Pinal Valley planning area<sup>88</sup> and that "[ilt is inconceivable that eliminating the 1,138-acre Cornman Tweedy property from the AWC certificated area would result in any noticeable loss of reliability or efficiency to AWC's operations. Any economies of scale would not even be measurable."89 Third, there is no evidence in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> Cornman Tweedy Opening Post-Hearing Brief at 9-13.

<sup>85</sup> Exhibit CT-106 (Goldman Rebuttal, Remand) at 2, lines 6-7.

<sup>86</sup> Exhibit CT-106 (Goldman Rebuttal, Remand) at 2, lines 10-14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>87</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 34-35.

<sup>88</sup> Exhibit CT-107 (Goldman Rebuttal Testimony, Remand II) at 3, lines 23-25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> Exhibit CT-106 (Goldman Rebuttal Testimony, Remand) at 2, lines 4-7.

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record that an integrated or stand-alone water provider serving the Cornman Tweedy Property would lack capacity, resources or scale of operations. Moreover, even is the assertion was true, it is not clear how such a lack of capacity, resources and scale of operations would harm AWC if AWC is not the entity which is providing water service to the Cornman Tweedy Property.

AWC argues that excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from its CC&N "would disrupt the orderly interconnection of Arizona Water Company's Pinal Valley CCC&N areas and the provision of service to neighboring properties."90 This is simply contradicted by the testimony of AWC's own witness at the hearing. Asked about the interconnection of AWC's Coolidge and Casa Grande systems, witness Schneider testified that the systems are already interconnected "through a six-inch water main located along McCartney Road, which is north of the project here, Cornman Tweedy." Further, when the judge asked Mr. Schneider "[w]ould it make a difference in terms of how your mains would run if the Cornman Tweedy property were excluded," he responded, "No. We would probably still run a water main down Florence Boulevard."92

#### F. There is No Need for Service.

AWC states that "Cornman Tweedy places great emphasis on the purported lack of need for service to its property to justify deleting apportion of Arizona Water Company's CC&N."93 Cornman Tweedy would first point out that the Commission also emphasized the issue of service when in Finding of Fact 100, it observed that "[t]here may not be a current need or necessity for water service in the portions of the extension area that are owned by Cornman," and that "[this issue bears] further examination and may have some relevance to the best interests of the area ultimately to be served." Second, AWC's use of the word "purported" lack of a need for service implies that AWC believes that there actually is a need for service but somehow Cornman Tweedy is hiding that fact from the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 35, lines 2-4.

<sup>91</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 544, lines 5-13. Mr. Schneider also testified at pages 544-545 that the interconnection was in service in 2008 and the systems were combined in 2010 through ADEQ permitting. <sup>92</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 553, lines 21-25.

<sup>93</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 36, lines 19-20.

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Commission. This, of course, is contrary to the evidence in the case.

Cornman Tweedy acquired the first parcel of land within the Cornman Tweedy Property on December 8, 2004, more than 11 years ago.<sup>94</sup> In his Direct Testimony dated January 4, 2008, Mr. Poulos included as Exhibit 3 a series of 21 photographs showing the Cornman Tweedy property and the immediate vicinity taken on December 26, 2007.95 The photos show the Cornman Tweedy property as undeveloped farmland and Mr. Poulos testified at that time that there were "no plans to develop the EJR Ranch Property" and that the property had been "indefinitely shelved." A little more than eight years later, Mr. Soriano testified that the photos still accurately depict the condition of the Cornman Tweedy Property today, 97 and that there are still no plans to develop the Cornman Tweedy Property in the foreseeable future. 98 Clearly, the facts establish that there is no need for water service.

AWC argues that the lack of a need for service is not a basis for deletion under James P. Paul. 99 While this may be true, for reasons that have been extensively discussed herein, the standard of review in this case is not James P. Paul. Thus, AWC's reliance on that case is misplaced.

AWC next argues that the Commission already found that there was a need for service in Decision 66893. While this may be true in a purely technical sense, it does not fairly convey the story. Mr. Poulos explained in his Direct Testimony:

On August 12, 2003, [AWC] filed an application with the Commission to extend its CC&N to include eleven square miles—or more than 7,000 acres—in Township 6 South, Range 7 east, G&SRB&M, in Pinal county, Arizona (the "Extension Area"). The Extension Area is shown on the map attached to my testimony as Exhibit 2. AWC's application was based on only two requests for service—one for a property called Post Ranch which

<sup>94</sup> Exhibit CT-102 (Poulos Direct Testimony) at 6, lines 23-24.

<sup>95</sup> Exhibit CT-102 (Poulos Direct Testimony), Exhibit 3. The Poulos Direct Testimony was adopted by Mr. Soriano.

<sup>96</sup> Exhibit CT-102 (Poulos Direct Testimony) at 10, lines 24-25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. I at 70, lines 9-12.

<sup>98</sup> *Id.* at 73, lines 2-14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 36-37.

consisted of approximately 480 acres and another for property called Florence Country Estates which consisted of approximately 240 acres.<sup>100</sup>

Thus, the "need" in AWC's application was supported by requests for service from owners of less than 10% of the property included in the extension request. Today, the Commission would absolutely not grant such a large request for an extension without requests for service from a majority of the landowners. Cornman Tweedy would also point out that there is still not a need for service in much of the extension area today, including the Cornman Tweedy Property. <sup>101</sup>

In addition, AWC's argument ignores the Finding of Fact 100 in Decision 69722 wherein the Commission specifically found that "[t]here may not be a current need or necessity for water service in the portions of the extension area that are owned by Cornman. The Commission's ruling in Decision 69722 supersedes any finding of need in Decision 66893 with respect to the Cornman Tweedy Property.

AWC next argues that "while the Commission stated that there may not be a 'current need or necessity' for service for the Cornman Tweedy property in Decision 69722, ... the evidence actually proves (and the Commission already found) that there is a public need for water service in all of the Extended CC&N Area, ... which not only includes the Cornman Tweedy property but nine other sections of land, including the property adjoining the Cornman Tweedy Property." This argument too must fail because the Commission has expressly targeted this inquiry in Finding of Fact 104 to "the overall public interest underlying service to the Cornman property," and not the larger extension area.

AWC argues that "it is undisputed that the Cornman Tweedy property will be developed, and the only question, given that the area is still rebounding from the recession, is by whom and when." However, this statement could apply to virtually any parcel of property within the I-10 corridor from Tonopah to Eloy. It is hard to imagine the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>100</sup> Exhibit CT-102 (Poulos Direct) at 6, lines 15-22. The 240-acre Florence Country Estates is not part of the Cornman Tweedy Property and it has still not developed, nor has the 480-acre Post ranch property.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. III at 545-547.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 37-38.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 39, lines 18-20.

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Commission granting a CC&N to an applicant which states that the service area will be developed some day, the only question is by whom and when.

AWC points out that Cornman Tweedy obtained an Extension of an Analysis of Assured Water Supply ("AAWS") in January 2015, and in connection therewith, made statements to the Arizona Department of Water Resources that Cornman Tweedy had "made substantial capital investment in developing the land included in the analysis" and had "made material progress in developing the land." 104 AWC argues that "although Cornman Tweedy is representing to the Commission that the project is in the deep freeze, it is simultaneously representing to the Department of Water Resources that it has made substantial progress to develop the property." <sup>105</sup> However, Mr. Soriano explained during questioning on cross-examination at the hearing how both statements are true without negating the fact that there is no current need or necessity for water service on the Cornman Tweedy Property:

- Q. When the extension was granted, we go back to page 1 of Arizona Water Company 11, and there are the findings and grant of the additional five years, it states that the department has reviewed the application -- I am in the second paragraph -- the department has reviewed the application for extension and has determined that the analysis holder has made material progress in developing the land. Do you see that?
- Has made, yes. Α.
- Okay. So you characterize that as that was pre-icebox, 10 years ago we did Q. that?
- Correct. A.
- Q. But wouldn't the department be looking for what is happening now in 2015 to base a current additional five-year extension?
- A. No. There is a lot of work involved in getting the assurance done. And that work is expensive. It is a lot of work on the part of the department. It is a lot of work on the part of the developer. And they don't want to do it twice. They don't want to do it twice for no reason. So if there is no reason to not

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 40, lines 10-15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 40, lines 20-23.

extend, they extend.

- Q. All right. So you don't see those representations on your application as adopted by the department as being inconsistent with what you are telling the Commission today?
- A. I think you saw on the application it clearly says has made, has made. And then in the department's letter, the sentence that you read says the holder has made. And we have owned that property since you know when, you know when we bought it. And we have, we have made progress and spent money in developing it.
- Q. All right. But for purposes of the characterization of the current need for utility service and for purposes of a deletion proceeding, it is the icebox and nothing is happening, correct?
- A. The property is in the icebox -- you asked two questions. One was for the purposes of a deletion proceeding. That's something you have labeled this. That's not how I see it. But then you also said that this is still in the icebox. And yes, I agree with you. This is still in the icebox.

Finally, AWC argues that "[d]eleting a CC&N based on nothing more than the whims of a new owner would undercut the sound public policy purposes of granting a CC&N." This statement unfairly mischaracterizes the facts and circumstances of this case, and the importance of the issues to be addressed herein. For substantive and material reasons that are amply documented in the record, Cornman Tweedy wants its property to be served by an integrated provider. Further, there is an opportunity here for an outcome that better serves the public interest. As Mr. Johnson explained in his Rejoinder Testimony:

Removal of the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N remains the better regulatory outcome. Contrary to Mr. Walker's assertion, the public interest is not best served by allowing AWC to hold the CC&N covering the Cornman Tweedy Property.

Efficiently utilizing scare resources (groundwater and effluent) through an integrated water and wastewater provider is the most reasonable, practical, policy and public interest-based outcome that can come out of this proceeding. This proceeding affords the ACC the opportunity to clearly

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> Hearing Transcript Vol. I at 81-83.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>107</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 42, lines 3-4.

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recognize that in the water challenged area affected by this proceeding, maximizing the efficient use of both groundwater and effluent is providing reasonable service to customers, and is the best public interest outcome. I would add also that removing the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N does not result in a decision today regarding the water service provider for the property, but it leaves all options on the table for the Commission once development proceeds at some future time. 108

#### G. The Public Interest is Best Served by Excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N.

AWC argues that Cornman Tweedy has failed to show any compelling public interest justifying deletion of any portion of AWC's CC&N.109 Instead, according to AWC, "Cornman Tweedy has merely reiterated its tired, self-serving refrain that it does not desire to have Arizona Water Company provide service to its property...." However, AWC misrepresents the weight of the evidence in this case. The evidence in this case establishes each of the following:

- There is no need and necessity for water service for the Cornman Tweedy property at this time or in the foreseeable future, which is one of the issues specifically identified by the Commission for examination in this case.
- Cornman Tweedy does not want water service from AWC, which is another of the issues specifically identified by the Commission for examination in this case.
- If AWC serves the Cornman Tweedy Property, then the EJR Ranch property will be split between two water utilizes increasing infrastructure costs for Cornman Tweedy and the public and causing time delays when development occurs in the future. These increased costs result from:
  - Construction of extra wells.
  - Construction of extra water storage and booster pump capacity.
  - Additional land acquisition cost and design costs.
  - Limitation of well siting options due to SCIP restrictions.
  - Additional pressure zone.
  - Time delays.
  - Lost economies of scale.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> Exhibit CT-110 (Johnson Rejoinder) at 4, lines 7-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> AWC Post-Hearing Brief at 42, lines 1-2.

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- If AWC serves the Cornman Tweedy Property, Cornman Tweedy and the public will lose many benefits of utility service from an integrated water and wastewater provider, including:
  - Integrated systems provide increased operational efficiencies and cost savings
  - Integrated systems enable the water provider to assist the sewer provider in collecting past due balances.
  - Integrated systems save money in the design and construction phases.
  - Integrated systems increase efficiencies and flexibility in dealing with waste streams.
  - Integrated systems improve the customer experience by providing "one-stop" shopping.
  - Integrated systems maximize the use of reclaimed wastewater.
- AWC has not constructed any water infrastructure within the Cornman Tweedy Property
- AWC will suffer no material harm if the Cornman Tweedy Property is excluded from its CC&N.
- AWC cannot provide integrated water and wastewater service to the Cornman Tweedy Property because AWC does not hold the CC&N to provide sewer service to the property.

For all of these reasons, the public interest requires that the Cornman Tweedy Property be excluded from AWC's CC&N at this time.

#### III. **CONCLUSION**

The evidence in this case shows that the public interest will best be served by excluding the Cornman Tweedy Property from AWC's CC&N at this time. It is undisputed that there is no need and necessity for water service for the Cornman Tweedy property at this time or in the foreseeable future. Moreover, Cornman Tweedy does not want water service from AWC for a number of legitimate and compelling reasons as described herein and in the testimony of the Cornman Tweedy witnesses. Specifically, if AWC serves the Cornman Tweedy Property, then the EJR Ranch property will be split

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between two water providers thereby increasing infrastructure costs for Cornman Tweedv and the public and causing time delays when development does occur in the future. More importantly, if AWC serves the Cornman Tweedy Property, then Cornman Tweedy and the public will lose the recognized benefits of utility service from an integrated water and wastewater provider. The inability to receive integrated water and wastewater service is unreasonable under the circumstances of this case. Thus, the Cornman Tweedy Property should be excluded from AWC's CC&N pursuant to A.R.S. § 40-252 in accordance with the directives contained in Decision 69722. AWC has not constructed any water infrastructure within the Cornman Tweedy Property and it will suffer no material harm if the Cornman Tweedy Property is excluded from its CC&N.

RESPECTFULLY submitted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

CROCKETT LAW GROUP PLLC

. Esq. 2198 E. Camelback Road, Suite 305

Phoenix, Arizona 85016-4747

Attorney for Cornman Tweedy 560, LLC

ORIGINAL plus thirteen (13) copies filed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016, with:

18 Docket Control

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 19

1200 West Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85007 20

21 COPY of the foregoing hand-delivered

this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016, to:

Sarah N. Harpring, Administrative Law Judge

23 Hearing Division

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

1200 West Washington Street 24

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

25 Janice Alward, Chief Counsel

26 Legal Division

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

27 1200 West Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

	1 2 3 4 5 6	Thomas M. Broderick, Director Utilities Division ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007  COPY of the foregoing mailed this 6 <sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016, to:  Steven A. Hirsch, Esq. Coree E. Neumeyer, Esq. QUARLES & BRADY LLP				
CROCKETT LAW GROUP PLLC 2198 E. Camelback Road, Suite 305 Phoenix, Arizona 85016-4747 602.441.2775	7 8	Two North Central Avenue One Renaissance Square Phoenix, Arizona 85004				
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# **ATTACHMENT 1**

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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMINGEOUTIVE TED

E. T. "EDDIE" WILLIAMS, JR.

Chairman DICK HERBERT

Commissioner

MILTON J. HUSKY Commissioner JUN 17 1968

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF JAMES P. PAUL AND BETTY J. PAUL, A CO-PARTNERSHIP DBA JAMES P. PAUL WATER COMPANY, FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A DOMESTIC WATER UTILITY IN THE AREA DESCRIBED AS SECTIONS 10, 11, AND 14, TOWNSHIP 4 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST, G&SRB&M, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA.

DOCKET NO. U-2055

DECISION NO. 39520

### OPINION AND ORDER

#### BY THE COMMISSION:

Notice having been given as provided by law, the above entitled matter came on for hearing before the Commission on Mey 23, 1968 sitting in Phoenix, Arizona.

Applicants were represented by their attorney, Frank
Haze Burch, and a letter protesting the inclusion of its property
was submitted by the attorney for D.C. Ranch Company.

From the evidence adduced, the Commission is of the opinion that the applicants have complied with the laws of the State of Arizona and the rules and regulations of the Commission for the issuance of an order preliminary to the issuance of a certificate of convenience and necessity as prayed for and pending compliance with the rules and regulations necessary to the issuance of a certificate of convenience and necessity.

wherefore, IT IS ORDERED that the application for the order preliminary to the issuance of a certificate of convenience and necessity is hereby approved, and this order shall constitute and be an order preliminary to the issuance of the certificate of convenience and necessity authorizing applicants to construct, operate and maintain, in conformity with the laws of the State of Arizona and the rules and regulations of the Commission, a public water utility within the area described as all of Sections 10 and 11 and all of Section 14, EXCEPT the Southeast Quarter ( $SE_{\psi}^{1}$ ) and the South Half ( $S_{\frac{1}{2}}^{1}$ ) of the Northeast Quarter ( $NE_{\psi}^{1}$ ) and the Northeast Quarter ( $NE_{\psi}^{1}$ ) of

DOCKET NO. U-2055

DECISION NO. 39520

Section 14, Township 4 North, Range 4 East, G&SRB&M, Maricopa County, Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE rates approved and which shall apply are as follows:

#### MONTHLY SERVICE CHARTES

5/8" Meters		:	4.00 5.00
710 0			7.00
<b>-12</b> 11			12.00 18.00
No water supplied	with	Service	Charge

### CONSUMPTION CHARGES

\$0.75 per 1,000 gallons for all water consumed.

All other rates and charges shall be in conformance with the Rules and Regulations Relating to the Operation of Domestic Water Utility Companies as adopted by this Commission on December 9, 1965.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon receipt of written approval from the Arizona State Health Department an order shall issue granting applicants herein a certificate of convenience and necessity.

BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION.

IN WITNESS WHERFOF, I, CHARLES D. HADLEY, Executive Secretary of the Arizona Corporation Commission, have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of this Commission to be affixed, at the Capitol in the City of Phoenix, this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 1968.

CHARLES D. HADLEY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

COMMISSIONER

# **ATTACHMENT 2**

Artona Comoration Commission BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

DICK HERBERT Chairman CHARLES H. CARLAND Commissioner RUSSELL WILLIAMS Commissioner

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF JAMES P. PAUL AND BETTER J PAUL, A CO-PARTMERSHIP DBA JAMES P. PAUL WATER COMPANY, FOR A CENTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A DOMESTIC WATER UTILITY IN THE AREA DESCRIBED AS SECTIONS 10, 11 AND 14, TOWNSHIP 4 WORTH, RANGE 4 EAST, G&SRB&M, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA.

DOCKET NO. U-2055

DECISION NO. 40884

DOCKETED

07 1 1970

## OPINION AND ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On June 17, 1968 this Commission by Decision No. 39520 issued an order preliminary to the issuance of the certificate of convenience and necessity to James P. Paul and Betty J. Paul, a co-partnership dba James P. Paul Water Company, and stating that the certificate of convenience and necessity would issue upon the filing of the approval of the State Health Department. This approval was filed in the office of this Commission on September 16, 1970.

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that this order shall constitute and be a certificate of convenience and necessity, pursuant to \$40-281, Arizona Revised Statutes, authorizing applicants herein to construct, operate and maintain a domestic water utility in the area described as all of Sections 10 and 11 and all of Section 14, EXCEPT the Southeast Quarter (SE1) and the South Half (S1) of the Northeast Quarter (NE1) and the Northeast Quarter (NE $^1_{\mu}$ ) of the Northeast Quarter (NE $^1_{\mu}$ ) of Section 14, Township 4 North, Range 4 East, G&SRB&M, Maricopa County, Arizona.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the rates approved and which shall apply are as follows:

#### MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES

5/8" Meters	\$ 4.00
3/4" "	5.00
	7.00
15" "	12.00
<b>. 2</b> " "	18.00

No water supplied with Service Charge

#### CONSUMPTION CHARGE

\$0.75 per 1,000 gallons for all water consumed.

DOCKET NO. U-2055

DECISION NO. 40884

All other rates and charges shall be in conformance with the Rules and Regulations Relating to the Operation of Domestic Water Utility Companies as adopted by this Commission on December 9, 1965.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all service connections shall be metered at the time installation is made.

BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION.

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